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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

Volume VIII—Nos. 1 to 9.

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Proposals, if any, for the stoppage of further recruitment to the Indian Civil Service.

105 *Q.*—Sri H. SITARAMA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Madras Government propose to move the Secretary of State for India to stop further recruitment of I.C.S. people to the Madras Province?

A.—It is presumed that the question is about recruitment in England. The Government have not so far taken up this question.

Progress of the ten years programme of rural water-supply.

106 *Q.*—Sri V. VENKATASUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of wells sunk in the several districts of the Province in pursuance of the present Government's ten years programme of rural water-supply;

(*b*) the total amount spent on the wells up to date; and

(*c*) whether the sum of fifteen lakhs set apart for the purpose is to be spent by the District Collectors, or through the agency of the district boards?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have called for the information.

(*c*) By District Collectors.

Alleged paucity of qualified people to teach Hindustani.

107 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state whether in view of the fact that there are not sufficient number of qualified people to teach Hindustani, Government have exempted and permitted the authorities to employ unpassed but competent persons as Hindustani teachers to teach in both Arabic and Nagari scripts or in any single script?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1851, Education, dated 4th August 1938, a copy[a] of which is placed on the table.

Condition of the live-stock during the last two decades.

108 *Q.*—Sri K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the live-stock in this presidency has increased or decreased during the last twenty years; and

(*b*) what the various schemes the Government have on hand are for developing the live-stock and for supplying pedigree bulls?

[a] Printed as Appendix XVII on page 166 infra.

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SRI G. KRISHNA RAO:—" I wanted to ask, Sir, if after a charge of corruption was made and after further going into the case the man was reinstated in the office for some consideration again and that was in the Chingleput district? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" If the word ' consideration ' is understood in the proper legal sense, the answer is ' none.' If the consideration is verbal and proper and rightful consideration, then it is quite probable. It is not possible to say unless details are given."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" In United Provinces a committee has been appointed to enquire into cases of corruption and if so, may I know if the Madras Government has any idea of initiating a similar proposal? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I have been watching, Sir, the scheme that was referred to as having been taken up by United Provinces. In that province the net result of that is the same as I have described."

SRI B. ANANTHACHAR:—" May I know whether there has been an increase or decrease in the corruption cases since this Government came into office? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I may be able to give some kind of guess answer if the departments are separated."

Alleged circular for the enforcement of the Criminal Law Amendment Act against the participators in the anti-Hindi movement on 1st July.

* 207 *Q.*—S. M. LALJAN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that he issued instructions to all District Superintendents of Police that the Criminal Law Amendment Act should be strictly enforced on the 1st July, the anti-Hindi day?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" No such instructions have been issued."

SRI G. KRISHNA RAO:—" Is the Prime Minister aware that the need is more felt for such a legislation and should be expedited? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" What legislation? "

SRI G. KRISHNA RAO:—" Is it not Q. No. 210, Sir? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" Q. No. 207."

SRI G. KRISHNA RAO:—" Excuse me, I am sorry."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I think every attention will be paid in future for better arrangement if this house should continue as the house for the Assembly."

SRI G. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am thankful for the promise, Sir."

Enhancement of the scale of fees for Special Test Examinations.

* 339 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the scale of fees for special test examinations such as Revenue test, Account test, Criminal test, etc., has been raised since the Madras Public Service Commission took charge of these examinations; and

(*b*) what the old scale of fees for these examinations was and what the present scale is?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR :—" (*a*) The scale of fees for certain Special Tests examinations was raised in 1932 after the Madras Public Service Commission took charge of the conduct of the examinations.

" (*b*) A statement [a] is laid on the table."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR :—" Has the hon. Member heard what I have said? "

SRI G. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, with regard to the Premier it is never difficult.

" Will the Government see that the scales of fees of these tests at least are reduced if possible as the persons appearing for these examinations are poorly paid officials? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR :—" The suggestion will be considered, but the prospect is not bright."

Alleged interference of the Subdivisional Magistrate, Vellore, with the owners of printing presses in re *the printing of anti-Hindi pamphlets.*

* 340 *Q.*—SRI B. BHAKTHAVATHSALU NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the press owners at Vellore were ordered by the Subdivisional Magistrate, Vellore, to give an undertaking not to print any pamphlet or notice condemning the introduction of Hindi in schools;

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, under what authority such an order was made;

(*c*) whether the Government have issued any orders to the Magistrates to prevent the condemning of Hindi; and

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 479 infra.

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(*d*) if the answer is in the affirmative, what the principle involved in such a policy is?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The answers to (*a*) and (*c*) are in the negative.

"(*b*) & (*d*) do not arise."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"In view of the fact that there have been complaints of interference on the part of officials with printers in the matter of printing news about anti-Hindi movement, will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to officials not to interfere with printers?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The presumption is not correct and I do not think that the question arises."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"May I inform the Hon. Premier . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may put a supplementary question. If information is to be communicated necessitating details he must communicate with him separately. At present, if there is anything to elucidate what has been given as the answer to the original question, he may put a supplementary question."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that there is at least a general complaint not only in the North Arcot district to which this question relates, but also in other districts, that officials either officially or unofficially have instructed printers not to accept notices and notifications relating to anti-Hindi movement?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The Government is not only not aware of it, but is in a position to state clearly that it is wrong. Hon. Members who are imagining that such instructions have been issued, or persons who are talking about such instructions having been issued, are apparently referring to the fact that printers have been, not only now but even before, warned not to print matters which will create class-hatred and it is but just that they should be warned because they would be innocently victims of others' objections and be subject to prosecution."

Representation of "Kudubis," a backward tribe of South Kanara in the public service.

* 341 *Q.*—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is a very backward tribe, called Kudubis and belonging to the scheduled classes in the district of South Kanara;

"(*b*) In 1935 the Government constituted a Committee to consider and report *inter alia* whether the constitution of a Statutory Board to take over the control and administration of electric supply in this Presidency was desirable or necessary. The Committee after obtaining the evidence of the several interests concerned recommended that the creation of a Statutory Board was not necessary at present and that the possibility of such a Board being formed at some future date should be kept in mind. The Government accepted the recommendation of the Committee."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether there is any possibility of such a Board being formed in the near future?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"The present Government do not think such a Board is necessary."

Introduction of vernaculars as the medium of instruction in schools.

* 477 *Q.*—MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Eduaction and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have passed orders introducing vernacular as the medium of instruction in all classes up to S.S.L.C. class from this year;

(*b*) what arrangement the Government have made to give instruction in Urdu in the case of pupils whose mother tongue is Urdu and who have been instructed up till now either in Urdu or in English;

(*c*) whether the Government have consulted the Muslim public before the introduction of the system of vernacularization;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that in some high schools both under the Government as well as local bodies, there are Urdu sections up to third form in which the medium of instruction is Urdu;

(*e*) what orders the Government have passed in respect of Muslim pupils whose medium of instruction is Urdu up to the third form; and

(*f*) whether the Government have passed any separate orders in the case of Europeans and Anglo-Indians whose mother tongue is English?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the communiqué of 5th March 1938 (G.O. No. 562, Education, dated 5th March 1938) copy[a] of which is placed on the table.

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 772 infra.

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" (*b*) The intention is as far as possible to save boys of tender years from going through the torture of instruction through a foreign language, and to substitute for English as a medium of instruction for boys from 12 to 15 years of age whose mother tongue is not English, the spoken language of the area in which the school is situated.

" When a few of the students speak Urdu at home, such boys should not find it more difficult to follow teaching in the language of the area in which they have lived and must continue to live than instruction imparted in English.

" (*c*) The agitation for doing away with a foreign language as medium of instruction for boys of tender age is of long standing and the reform was long overdue, and no fresh consultation on communal lines was thought necessary.

" (*d*) & (*e*) In some high schools there are Urdu sections up to the III form. Where the teaching is now in Urdu, nothing is done to upset it.

" Whenever the strength of Urdu-speaking pupils warrants it, the opening of parallel sections for IV form and above with teaching in Urdu is permitted. Pupils whose mother tongue is Urdu are permitted to answer at examinations in English.

" (*f*) No separate orders have been passed. The teaching in European and Anglo-Indian schools will continue to be through the medium of English."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, where a district board-managed high school cannot afford to open parallel sections for IV Form and above classes for imparting education in Urdu, whether Government will finance them in that behalf? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion if he puts down a separate question."

Non-admission of Hindus and Muslims in the Government Muhammadan College, Madras, and the Pachiyappa's College, Madras, respectively.

* 478 *Q.*—K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Hindus and Muslims are not admitted into the Government Muhammadan College, Madras, and Pachiyappa's College, Madras, respectively; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) be in the negative, the number of Hindus and Muslims studying in those colleges, respectively?

SRI P. R. K. SARMA:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to convert these jails into workshops and make them compete with the labour outside?"

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"No, Sir."

Transfer of Sarishtadars of District Courts.

* 496 *Q.*—SRI B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Administration Reports and Public Information be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is a Government Order empowering the High Court of Madras to transfer the Sarishtadar of a District Court every five years;

(*b*) in how many cases till this day, the Government Order was not given effect to; and

(*c*) in computing the abovesaid five years whether the Government are taking into consideration the prior service of the incumbent in the same district, though not as Sarishtadar?

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"(*a*) The answer is in the negative. Under the Madras Judicial Subordinate Service Rules, the transfer of Sarishtadars is a matter within the discretion of the High Court.

"(*b*) & (*c*) In view of the answer to clause (*a*) the questions in these clauses do not arise."

Alleged severity of treatment to the anti-Hindi prisoners in jails.

* 497 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Administration Reports and Public Information be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the anti-Hindi prisoners are treated with more than ordinary severity in the prisons; and

(*b*) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, whether the Government will make an enquiry into the matter and place the report on the table of the House or whether the Government will constitute a Committee of this House to enquire into the matter?

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"(*a*) The answer is in the negative. If there is any difference, it is in favour of the prisoners.

"(*b*) The question does not arise."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know why this difference in favour of these prisoners is made?"

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"These can be considered, Sir, as special cases."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What is the special nature of these cases which necessitated the special treatment?"

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"These prisoners are merely misguided."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what opinion the Government have about the other prisoners? Are all of them guided properly?"

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"Some of them might have been misguided. Every case has to be decided on its merits."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether some of the respectable prisoners will be put in A class?"

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"The classification depends upon the previous status of each prisoner besides other considerations."

Selection of Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders on the panel system.

* 498 *Q.*—SRI K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Administration Reports and Public Information be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the panel system of selecting Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders has been abolished; and

(*b*) if so, what the reasons are?

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*b*) The panel system was abolished because it was found that it did not work satisfactorily."

Re-organization of the establishment of official receivers.

* 499 *Q.*—SRI K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Administration Reports and Public Information be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the report of the Committee for the re-organization of the establishment of official receivers in the mufassal has been considered by the Government; and

(*b*) if so, what the decisions are?

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"(*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under examination."

SRI K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know if both are under examination for one year?"

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—"I cannot, say, Sir."

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Applications from certain Oriya Government servants in Orissa for transfer to Madras.

*507 *Q.*—Sri P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of Oriyas (Government servants) who had originally chosen to remain in Orissa are now applying for transfer to Madras?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The Government have no definite information as to whether a number of Oriya Government servants transferred from Madras to Orissa who are now applying for transfer to Madras originally expressed their willingness to remain in Orissa. But the rules issued by the Government of India under His Majesty in Council's 'Government of India Order, 1936,' confer on a transferred officer the right to elect to revert to Madras within two years from the date of his first employment under the Government of Orissa. The period has since been extended up to the 31st December 1938. The Government of Madras are, it is understood, bound to take back an officer who has so elected to revert."

Conviction and sentence passed on persons involved in the prosecutions launched for anti-Hindi agitation.

*508 *Q.*—Sri Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of prisoners arrested up to date for agitating against the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject;

(*b*) how many of them have been sentenced; and

(*c*) the maximum and the average punishment given to those prisoners?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"(*a*) No one has been convicted for agitating against the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject.

"(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"Am I to understand, Sir, whether the various convictions that have been going on day by day are not cases of agitation against the introduction of Hindi?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The convictions are cases of persons who have been tried and convicted for causing criminal annoyance and disturbance to the Prime Minister and his family or to the teachers and students of a certain school in Madras, the latter programme leading to communal hooliganism and destruction of property in the streets."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"May I ask, Sir, if the Government are of opinion that all these things which

the Hon. the Prime Minister has detailed at such length have no connexion with the compulsory introduction of Hindi?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not say that it has no connexion. But the persons were not arrested for agitating against the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject. The question has been framed in a disingenuous manner."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"Is it the idea of the Government that these convictions have nothing to do with the anti-Hindi agitation?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It has much to do. But the procedure was wrong and it became offensive. To the agitation itself, the Government have no objection and the Government would not have arrested any person for it."

Proposals, if any, for the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

*509 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there is any immediate intention on the part of Government to repeal the Criminal Law Amendment Act under whose provisions the anti-Hindi agitators have been arrested and sentenced?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The Government will make proposals in regard to the matter as soon as they are ready. There is no intention to take up the question at this session."

Proposals for the transfer of the control of the Prosecuting staff of the Police department.

*510 *Q.*—SRI K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of placing Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors under some authority other than the Police department itself; and

(*b*) if so, what that decision is?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"(*a*) & (*b*) The question is under the consideration of the Government."

Policy, if any, of the Ministry toward the anti-Hindi movement.

*511 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Hon. Mr. Yakub Hasan, Minister for Public Works, in the course of his tour in the districts

the Hon. the Prime Minister has detailed at such length have no connexion with the compulsory introduction of Hindi?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not say that it has no connexion. But the persons were not arrested for agitating against the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject. The question has been framed in a disingenuous manner."

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*511 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Hon. Mr. Yakub Hasan, Minister for Public Works, in the course of his tour in the districts

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of the Presidency, declared that the present Ministry were going to crush the anti-Hindi movement;

(*b*) whether this is the object of the present Ministry;

(*c*) if so, whether the Government think that it is a legitimate object; and

(*d*) how far they have succeeded in this object?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"(*a*) It is not a fact.

"(*b*) & (*c*) The Government intend to give full effect to their decision to make the acquisition of a working knowledge of Hindustani a part of the regular course of studies in schools, and to overcome any attempt to frustrate this intention by unlawful means adopted by persons whose views carry no authority in educational matters.

"(*d*) This is a matter of opinion."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"Has the attention of the Hon. the Prime Minister been drawn to the report of the speech of the Minister for Public Works about the crushing of the anti-Hindi movement."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The matter has been looked into and that is why I said that the supposition in clause (*a*) of the question is not a fact. And I have answered what exactly the Hon. the Minister said and what the Government mean in my answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*). The position is perfectly clear but if in the question the language used is crushing the agitation, the answer is in the negative."

Request of the Andhra Mahasabha to interview Lieutenant-Colonel Muirhead, Under Secretary of State for India.

*512 *Q.*—SRI GRANDHI VENKATA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it was the Local Government which fixed the programme of tour in this Province for Lieutenant-Colonel Muirhead, Under Secretary of State for India;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Mahasabha desired to interview Lieutenant-Colonel Muirhead, on the question of the formation of a separate Province for the Andhras;

(*c*) whether the request was not granted; and

(*d*) if so, what the reasons are?

THE HON. SRI RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*b*) A letter was received from the Secretary of the Andhra Mahasabha to that effect.

"(*c*) & (*d*) Colonel Muirhead's visit was a private one and it was not permissible to arrange for the presentation of any addresses or deputations."